

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Mail Stop: ISSUE FEE

Hidehisa ASADA et al.:

Confirmation No. 9095

Serial No. 09/508,435

[Group Art Unit 1644

Filed March 13, 2000

Examiner Patrick J. Nolan

IMMUNOASSAY FOR BNP

RULE 56 STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

THE COMMISSIONER IS AUTHORIZED TO CHARGE ALL DEHOLENCY IN THE FEES FOR THIS PAPER TO DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 23-0975

Sir:

Submitted herewith is a Supplementary European Search Report issued in the corresponding EP patent application, together with one copy of the cited reference.

Please note that the reference has been cited under Category "A" as being technological background.

Since the issue fee in this application has been paid, it is respectfully requested that the attached papers be made a permanent part of the application file.

Respectfully submitted,

Hidehisa ASADA et al.

By

Warren M. Cheek, J

Registration No. 33,367 Attorney for Applicants

WMC/dlk Washington, D.C. 20006-1021 Telephone (202) 721-8200 Facsimile (202) 721-8250 October 22, 2004